

Debbie Beadle

From: meggee@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 10:29 PM
To: Debbie Beadle
Cc: David Gee; Megan gee
Subject: Relevant City Code Sections re Wetland Size Exemptions for Easy Reference by Planning Commission -- Provided by David + Megan Gee
Attachments: SEA_DOCS-#1080285-v1-City Codes for PC 11_8_12.doc

EXHIBIT NO. 237

Anacortes Code of Ordinances 17.70.520 - Isolated wetland and small wetland exemptions.

The following isolated wetlands shall be exempted from this chapter where it has been shown by applicants that they are not associated with a riparian corridor, they are not part of a wetland mosaic, and do not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A.

Category I	0
Category II	Under 1,000 square feet
Category III	Under 1,000 square feet
Category IV	Under 1,000 square feet

B. The requirement to avoid impacts may be dropped for Category III and IV wetlands between one thousand and four thousand square feet that meet all of the following criteria:

1. Wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor;
2. Wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic;
3. Wetland does not score twenty points or greater for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Rating System; and
4. Wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Impacts allowed under this provision to these wetlands will be fully mitigated as required in the mitigation section (Section 17.70.350).

C. All Category I and II Wetlands between one thousand square feet and four thousand square feet should be evaluated with full mitigation sequencing and buffer establishment. Any approved impacts should be adequately compensated by mitigation; such adjustments may only be made through the conditional use permit requirements of Section 17.70.400. (Ord. 2756 Att. B (part), 2006; Ord. 2743 § 2, 2006)

(Ord. 2794, § 1(Att. A), 12-15-2008)

Bellingham Municipal Code 16.55.270 - WETLANDS, APPLICABILITY

A. This chapter shall apply to:

1. All wetlands except as specified in B. below.
2. All upland buffers to wetlands within the standard buffer widths shown in the tables in Section 16.55.340.

B. This chapter shall not apply to:

1. Wetlands less than 1,000 square feet that meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Wetland is not hydrologically connected to a Type 1 through Type 5 stream; and
 - b. Wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
 - c. Wetland is not part of a mosaic of wetlands.
2. Category III and IV wetland between 1,000 square feet and 4,000 square feet may be exempt if they meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Wetland is not hydrologically connected to a Type I through Type 5 stream; and
 - b. Wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
 - c. Wetland is not part of a mosaic of wetlands.
 - d. Wetland does not score 20 points or more for habitat or 24 points or more for water quality in the wetland rate per Section 16.55.270.
3. Wetlands and drainage structures, which were both artificially and intentionally created from non-wetland sites and were not required to be constructed as previous development wetland impact mitigation. These may include, but are not limited to: detention facilities, reservoirs, stormwater or wastewater treatment ponds, farm ponds, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass lines swales, canals and landscape amenities.

Black Diamond Municipal Code 19.10.235 - Provisions for small isolated wetlands.

A. All wetlands shall be regulated regardless of size, provided that the mayor or his/her designee shall assure that preservation of isolated wetlands and associated buffers of less than ten thousand square feet of combined wetland and buffer shall maintain effective wetland functions, or be mitigated as provided below.

B. Wetlands and associated buffers of less than one thousand square feet may be displaced when the wetland meets all of the following criteria, as documented in a wetland sensitive area study:

1. The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor; and
2. The wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic; and
3. The wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
4. Impacts of displaced wetlands shall be mitigated pursuant to Section 19.10.240

C. Category III and IV wetlands between one thousand and four thousand square feet may be displaced without meeting the provisions of Section 19.10.240 regarding avoidance, minimization, rectification, and reducing and eliminating the impact over time, provided that the criteria in subsection (B), above, are met and the wetland does not score twenty points or greater for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Rating System.

D. Preservation of isolated wetlands with a total area of the combined wetland and buffer of ten thousand square feet or less shall meet the following provisions, or if the said provisions cannot be demonstrated, the mayor or his/her designee may permit such a wetland to be displaced and mitigated as specified in Section 19.10.240

1. Depressional wetlands recharged only by precipitation, interflow or groundwater shall be assured a source of recharge through stormwater infiltration, or other means, to maintain the wetland's hydrologic character.
2. Wetlands that have a potential to reduce flooding or erosion, or have the potential and opportunity to maintain or improve water quality as evidenced by a score of at least ten points on the applicable criteria of the Wetland Rating Form for Western Washington, shall maintain a hydraulic connection to surface water that maintains effective wetland function for flood or erosion reduction or water quality and does not substantially alter the existing hydroperiod of the wetland.
3. Wetlands that achieve a score of at least twenty points on the Habitat Functions criteria of the Wetland Rating Form for Western Washington shall maintain a connection to a linear corridor maintained as a stream buffer, a buffer associated with a geological hazard or other designated open space buffer sufficient to allow movement of terrestrial wildlife to and from the wetland and buffer complex without interruption by roads, paved areas or buildings within fifty feet.

(Ord. No. 875, § 4 (Exh. B), 2-26-2009)

Des Moines Municipal Code 18.86.120 Wetlands – Limited exemptions.

The city manager or designee may allow exemptions from the provisions of this chapter based on the following criteria:

(1) Wetlands larger than 4,000 square feet will be evaluated using standard procedures for wetland review.

(2) Wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet shall be evaluated using the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington (Hruby, 2004, or as revised) to establish category and evaluate functions. The following criteria and local knowledge of natural resources shall be used to determine whether to exempt wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet from the requirement to avoid impacts.

(a) The requirement to avoid impacts may be dropped for Category III and IV wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet that meet all of the following criteria:

- (i) Wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor; and
- (ii) Wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic; and
- (iii) Wetland does not score 20 points or more for habitat in the wetland rating system; and
- (iv) Wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by [the] Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(b) Impacts allowed under this provision to these wetlands will be fully mitigated as set forth in DMMC 18.86.130.

(c) All Category I and II Wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet should be evaluated with full mitigation sequencing and buffer establishment. Any approved impacts should be adequately compensated by mitigation as set forth in DMMC 18.86.130.

(3) Wetlands less than 1,000 square feet shall be exempt from regulation where the applicant has shown that they:

- (a) Are not associated with a riparian corridor;
- (b) Are not part of a wetland mosaic; and
- (c) Do not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. [Ord. 1400 § 22, 2007.]

Everett Municipal Code 37.050 Exemptions—Exceptions—Modifications.

Certain activities are exempt from the requirements of this chapter, while other activities which are regulated by this chapter may be granted specific exceptions or an administrative modification as provided in this chapter. This section lists the activities which are exempt from the regulations of this chapter, the exceptions which may be granted to the requirements of this chapter, and the administrative modifications which can be granted to other requirements of this title of the city code.

All activities or developments which are exempted, excepted, or granted modifications shall use reasonable methods to avoid and minimize potential impacts to critical areas, including use of any applicable best management practices. Such activities or developments which are exempted, excepted, or granted modifications shall not be exempt from other laws or permit requirements which may be applicable.

A. Exemptions. The following are exemptions to the provisions of this chapter; however, the exemptions listed in this section may not be exempted from other state or federal regulations or permit requirements. Any incidental damage to, or alteration of, a critical area that is not a necessary outcome of the exempted activity shall be restored, rehabilitated, or replaced at the expense of the property owner.

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7. Wetland Size Exemptions. The following wetlands are exempt from compliance with the mitigation sequencing provisions in Section 37.120.A of this chapter:

- a. Category I, II, III, and IV wetlands less than one thousand square feet in area that meet all of the following criteria:
 - i. The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor;
 - ii. The wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic; and
 - iii. The wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- b. Category III and IV wetlands between one thousand square feet and four thousand square feet in area that meet all of the following criteria:
 - i. The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor;
 - ii. The wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic;
 - iii. The wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
 - iv. The wetland scores less than twenty points for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Wetland Rating System.

Mitigation must be provided for any approved impacts per Section 37.120.C through F or payment of a mitigation fee to the city. Payment of a mitigation fee is allowed subject to the city establishing a program to mitigate cumulative impacts of wetland losses by acquiring wetlands, acquiring conservation easements which will protect wetlands, establishing wetland mitigation banks or purchasing mitigation credits in established wetland mitigation banks, or creating wetlands. The program must establish a mitigation fee schedule for exempt wetlands. Mitigation fees shall be paid to the city prior to the issuance of permits authorizing wetland alteration.

Kent Municipal Code 11.06.550 Mitigation standards.

A. Mitigation sequencing shall be avoidance, minimization, mitigation. Any proposal to impact a critical area shall demonstrate that it is unavoidable or will provide a greater function and value to the critical area.

B. Adverse impacts to critical area functions and values shall be mitigated. Mitigation actions shall be implemented in the preferred sequence identified in this chapter. Proposals which include less preferred and/or compensatory mitigation shall demonstrate that:

1. All feasible and reasonable measures have been taken to reduce impacts and losses to the critical area, or to avoid impacts where avoidance is required by these regulations; provided, that avoidance is not required where an applicant proposes to fill and replace a hydrologically isolated emergent Category III or IV wetland less than five thousand (5,000) square feet in size pursuant to KCC 11.06.610(C). For the purposes of this section, a hydrologically isolated wetland shall be determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
2. The restored, created, or enhanced critical area or buffer will at a minimum be as viable and enduring as the critical area or buffer area it replaces.
3. In the case of wetlands and streams, no overall net loss will occur in wetland or stream functions and values. The mitigation shall be functionally equivalent to the altered wetland or stream in terms of hydrological, biological, physical, and chemical functions.

(Ord. No. 3746, § 3, 4-19-05; Ord. No. 3805, § 1, 8-15-06)

Maple Valley Municipal Code 18.60.300 Isolated wetlands – Limited exemption.

Isolated wetlands less than 5,000 square feet may be exempted from the provisions of MVMC 18.60.270 and 18.60.280 and may be altered by filling or dredging if the City determines that the cumulative impacts do not unduly counteract the purposes of this chapter and are mitigated pursuant to an approved mitigation plan. (Ord. O-06-333 § 1).

Mason County Code 8.52.110 - Wetlands.

The purpose of this section is to avoid, or in appropriate circumstances, minimize, rectify, reduce or compensate for impacts arising from land development and other activities affecting wetlands; to maintain and enhance the biological and physical functions and values of wetlands with respect to water quality maintenance; stormwater and floodwater storage and conveyance; fish and wildlife habitat; primary productivity, recreation, education and historic and cultural preservation. When avoiding impacts is not reasonable, mitigation shall be implemented to achieve a no net loss of wetlands in terms of acreage, function and value.

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(2) Designations. The following lands, shorelands and waters of Mason County are designated under RCW 36.70A.060 and RCW 36.70A.170, as critical areas requiring immediate protection from incompatible land uses: Wetlands and their buffer as specified by subsection (E) of this section.

In making a determination regarding a wetland, Washington State Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual (Ecology #96-94), or as amended hereafter, shall serve as the technical resource guide on determining if an area possesses hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and/or wetland hydrology.

(A) The following are designated as regulated wetlands under this chapter:

- (i) All areas described in subsection (A) of this section;
- (ii) Ponds less than twenty acres;
- (iii) Wetlands created as mitigation, and those modified for approved land use activities, including their submerged aquatic beds.

(B) The following are designated as non-regulated wetlands:

Artificial man-made wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street or highway.

- (i) Exempt wetlands that are isolated and less than one thousand square feet in area where it has been shown by the applicant that they are not associated with a riparian corridor, they are not part of a wetland mosaic and do not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- (ii) No measures to avoid impacts for Category III and IV wetlands between one thousand and four thousand square feet are required if they meet all the following criteria:

- A. Wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor;
- B. Wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic;
- C. Wetland does not score twenty points or greater for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Rating System; and
- D. Wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- (iii) Impacts allowed under this provision to these wetlands will be fully mitigated as required in mitigation section.

(C) Owners and applicants with non-regulated wetlands are strongly urged to cooperate voluntarily in this plan of wetland protection, using the guidelines in this ordinance and in materials provided by the Department of Community Development.

Olympia Municipal Code 18.32.515 Wetlands and Small Lakes - Small Wetlands

A. Wetlands and "small lakes" less than one thousand (1,000) square feet shall be exempt from the requirements of OMC 18.32.135.A; wetland buffers in OMC 18.32.535, compensation projects in OMC 18.32.545 and replacement ratios in OMC 18.32.550 provided that the wetland or pond:

1. Is not associated with a riparian corridor,
2. Is not part of a wetland mosaic, and
3. Does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

B. Wetlands and "small lakes" between one thousand (1,000) and four thousand (4,000) square feet shall be exempt from the requirements of OMC 18.32.135.A, provided that the wetland or small lake:

1. Is rated as a Category III or IV wetland,
2. Is not associated with a riparian corridor,
3. Is not part of a wetland mosaic,
4. Does not score 20 points or greater for habitat in the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington (2004),
5. Does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and
6. A wetland mitigation report is provided as required by OMC 18.32.590.

(Ord. 6426 §27, 2006; Ord. 6356 §5, 2005).

**RENTON SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM REGULATIONS –
APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ON NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

4-3-090 D2dv:

Provisions for Small Isolated Wetlands: All wetlands shall be regulated regardless of size; provided, that the Administrator of the Department of Community and Economic Development or designee shall assure that preservation of isolated wetlands and associated buffers of less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet of combined wetland and buffer shall maintain effective wetland functions, or be mitigated as provided below.

(a) Wetlands and associated buffers of one thousand (1,000) square feet or less may be displaced when the wetland meets all of the following criteria, as documented in a wetland mitigation plan:

- (1) The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor;
- (2) The wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic, or collection of small wetlands that are hydrologically related to one another;
- (3) The wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- (4) Impacts of displaced wetlands are mitigated pursuant to subsection D2dx of this Section.

(b) Category III and IV wetlands and buffers between one thousand (1,000) and four thousand (4,000) square feet may be displaced; provided, that all of the following criteria are documented in a wetland mitigation plan:

- (1) The wetland does not score twenty (20) points or greater for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Rating System;
- (2) The wetland is depressional and is recharged only by precipitation, interflow or groundwater and adjacent development cannot assure a source of recharge to maintain its hydrologic character through stormwater infiltration, or other means;
- (3) The wetlands does not have a potential to reduce flooding or erosion or has the potential to maintain or improve water quality as evidenced by a score of at least ten (10) points on the applicable criteria of the Wetland Rating Form for Western Washington;
- (4) The total area of the combined wetland and buffer is ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less and:
 - (A) It does not achieve a score of at least twenty (20) points on the Habitat Functions criteria of the Wetland Rating Form for Western Washington; and
 - (B) The wetland and buffer is not connected to a larger open space complex which may include, but is not limited to, a stream buffer, a buffer associated with a geological hazard, or other designated open space buffer sufficient to allow movement of terrestrial wildlife to and from the wetland and buffer complex without interruption by roads, paved areas or buildings within fifty feet (50');
- (5) Impacts of displaced wetlands are mitigated pursuant to subsection D2dx of this Section.

Sultan Municipal Code 16.80.110 Regulation of small wetlands.

Small wetlands are those that are less than 4,000 square feet.

A. Wetlands less than 1,000 square feet are exempt where it has been shown by the applicant that the wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor, they are not part of a larger wetland system, and do not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

B. Wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet are to be evaluated using the 2004 Western Washington Wetland Rating System and the below criteria when determining whether or not to exempt these smaller wetlands:

1. Category III and IV wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet may be exempt if the following requirements are met:

- a. The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor; and
- b. The wetland is not part of a larger wetland system; and
- c. The wetland does not score 20 points or greater for habitat in the 2004 Western Washington Rating System; and
- d. The wetland does not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
- e. Surface water impacts are mitigated pursuant to an approved mitigation plan or the Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual when necessary.

(Ord. 947-07 § 1; Ord. 918-06 § 1)

Skagit County Code 14.24.230 Wetland protection standards.

(6) Category III and IV wetlands less than 4,000 square feet that have been identified through a site assessment may be exempted or partially exempted from the provisions of this Chapter and may be altered by filling or dredging as outlined below.

- (a) Category III and IV wetlands less than 1,000 square feet are exempt from County regulation where:
 - (i) The wetland is isolated; and
 - (ii) The wetland is not associated with a riparian corridor; and
 - (iii) The wetland is not part of a wetland mosaic, as described by the Department of Ecology in publication No. 04-06-025; and
 - (iv) The wetland does not contain Department of Fish and Wildlife-designated priority species or habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species.

(b) Category III and IV wetlands between 1,000 and 4,000 square feet may be exempted from the mitigation sequencing requirement to first avoid impacts where:

- (i) The wetland meets the criteria listed in Subsection (6)(a) of this Section; and
- (ii) The project impacts are fully mitigated. (Ord. O20080014 (part))

Redmond Zoning Code -- 21.64.030 Wetlands

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C. Alteration of Wetlands.

1. Wetland alteration shall result in no net loss of wetland area, except where the following criteria are met:
 - a. The lost wetland area provides minimal functions and the mitigation action(s) results in a net gain in wetland functions as determined by a site-specific assessment; or
 - b. The lost wetland area provided minimal functions as determined by a site-specific functional assessment and other replacement habitats provide greater benefits to the functioning of the watershed, such as riparian habitat restoration and enhancement.
2. Category I Wetlands. Alterations of Category I wetlands shall be prohibited subject to the reasonable use provisions of this chapter.
3. Category II, III, and IV Wetlands.
 - a. Any proposed alteration and mitigation shall comply with the mitigation performance standards and requirements of these regulations; and
 - b. No net loss of wetland function and value may occur.
 - c. Where enhancement or replacement is proposed, ratios shall comply with the requirements of subsection C.7 below in this section.
4. Mitigation for alterations to wetlands shall achieve equivalent or greater biological functions. Mitigation plans shall be consistent with the Department of Ecology Guidance on Wetland Mitigation in Washington State, Part 2: Guidelines for Developing Freshwater Wetlands Mitigation Plans and Proposals, April, 2004, as revised.
5. Mitigation actions shall address functions affected by the alteration to achieve functional equivalency or improvement, and shall provide similar wetland functions as those lost except when:
 - a. The filled/impacted wetland provides minimal functions as determined by a site-specific function assessment; and the proposed mitigation action(s) will provide equal or greater functions, or will provide functions shown to be limiting within a watershed through a formal watershed assessment plan or protocol; or
 - b. Out-of-kind replacement will best meet formerly identified regional goals, such as replacement of historically diminished wetland types.
6. Mitigation actions that require compensation by replacing, enhancing, or substitution shall occur in the following order of preference:
 - a. Preserving high-quality wetlands that are under imminent threat.
 - b. Restoring wetlands on upland sites that were formerly wetlands.
 - c. Creating wetlands on disturbed upland sites, such as those with vegetative cover consisting primarily of exotic introduced species.
 - d. Enhancing significantly degraded wetlands.
7. Wetland Replacement Ratios.
 - a. Where wetland alterations are permitted by the City, the applicant shall restore or create areas of wetlands in order to compensate for wetland losses. Equivalent areas shall be determined according to acreage, function, type, location, timing factors, and projected success of restoration or creation.
 - b. When creating or enhancing wetlands, the following acreage replacement ratios shall be used:

Table 21.64.030B Acreage Replacement Ratios				
Category and Type of Wetland	Creation or Reestablishment	Rehabilitation (Restoration)	Reestablishment or Creation (R/C) and Enhancement	Enhancement Only
Category I Forested	6:1	12:1	1:1 R/C and 10:1 E	24:1
Category I based on score	4:1	8:1	1:1 R/C and 6:1 E	16:1
Category II	3:1	8:1	1:1 R/C and 4:1 E	12:1
Category III	2:1	4:1	1:1 R/C and 2:1 E	8:1
Category IV	1.5:1	3:1	1:1 R/C and 2:1 E	6:1

- c. Increased Replacement Ratio. The Department may increase the ratios under the following circumstances:
 - i. Uncertainty exists as to the probable success of the proposed restoration or creation; or
 - ii. A significant period of time will elapse between impact and replication of wetland functions; or
 - iii. Proposed mitigation will result in a lower category wetland or reduced functions relative to the wetland being impacted; or
 - iv. The impact was an unauthorized impact.
- d. Decreased Replacement Ratio. The Department may decrease these ratios under the following circumstances:
 - i. Documentation by a qualified wetland specialist demonstrates that the proposed mitigation actions have a very high likelihood of success;
 - ii. Documentation by a qualified wetland specialist demonstrates that the proposed mitigation actions will provide functions and values that are significantly greater than the wetland being impacted; or
 - iii. The proposed mitigation actions are conducted in advance of the impact and have been shown to be successful.
- e. Enhanced and created wetlands shall be appropriately classified and buffered.

Bellevue City Code 20.25H.095 Designation of critical area and buffers

A. Definition of Wetland.

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands.

B. Designation of Critical Area.

The following wetlands are hereby designated as critical areas subject to the requirements of this part. Wetlands are classified into category I, category II, category III and category IV wetlands based on the adopted Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington, Washington State Department of Ecology Publication Number 04-06-025, published August, 2004.

1. **Category I Wetlands.** Category I wetlands are those that (a) represent a unique or rare wetland type; or (b) are more sensitive to disturbance than most wetlands; or (c) are relatively undisturbed and contain ecological attributes that are impossible to replace within a human lifetime; or (d) provide a high level of functions.
2. **Category II Wetlands.** Category II wetlands are difficult, though not impossible, to replace, and provide high levels of some functions. These wetlands occur more commonly than category I wetlands, but still need a relatively high level of protection. Category II wetlands in western Washington include: wetlands scoring between 51 to 69 points (out of 100) on the questions related to the functions present. Wetlands scoring 51 to 69 points were judged to perform most functions relatively well, or performed one group of functions very well and the other two moderately well.
3. **Category III Wetlands.** Category III wetlands are wetlands with a moderate level of functions (scores between 30 to 50 points). Wetlands scoring between 30 to 50 points generally have been disturbed in some ways, and are often less diverse or more isolated from other natural resources in the landscape than category II wetlands.
4. **Category IV Wetlands Over 2,500 Square Feet.** Category IV wetlands have the lowest levels of functions (scores less than 30 points) and are often heavily disturbed. These are wetlands that we should be able to replace, and in some cases be able to improve. However, experience has shown that replacement cannot be guaranteed in any specific case. These wetlands may provide some important functions, and also need to be protected.

Issaquah Municipal Code 18.10.620 Wetland rating system.

A. To promote consistent application of standards, wetlands within the City of Issaquah shall be classified according to their characteristics, function and value, and/or their sensitivity to disturbance. Wetlands shall be rated and regulated according to the categories defined by the Washington State Department of Ecology Wetland Rating System for Western Washington, (Ecology Publication #04-06-025). This document contains the methods for determining the wetland category.

1. Wetlands, as defined by this chapter, shall be classified into Category I, Category II, Category III, and Category IV, as follows:

a. Category I Wetlands: Category I wetlands are those that (1) represent a unique or rare wetland type; or (2) are more sensitive to disturbance than most wetlands; or (3) are relatively undisturbed and contain ecological attributes that are impossible to replace within a human lifetime; or (4) provide a high level of functions. All wetlands with one (1) or more of the following criteria shall be considered a Category I wetland:

- (1) Wetlands that are identified by scientists of the Washington Natural Heritage Program/DNR as high quality, relatively undisturbed wetlands, or wetlands that support State-listed threatened or endangered plants; or
- (2) Bogs; or
- (3) Mature and old-growth forested wetlands over one (1) acre in size; or
- (4) Wetlands that provide a very high level of functions as evidenced by a score of seventy (70) points or more on the Western Washington Rating System form.

b. Category II Wetlands: Category II wetlands are those wetlands that provide high levels of some functions which are difficult to replace. Category II wetlands meet the following criteria:

- (1) Wetlands scoring between fifty-one (51) and sixty-nine (69) points on the Western Washington Rating System form.

c. Category III Wetlands: Category III wetlands are those wetlands that provide a moderate level of functions. They are typically more disturbed and have less diversity or are more isolated from other natural resources in the landscape than Category II wetlands. Category III wetlands meet the following criteria:

- (1) Wetlands scoring between thirty (30) and fifty (50) points on the Western Washington Rating System form.

d. Category IV Wetlands Over Two Thousand Five Hundred (2,500) Square Feet: Category IV wetlands are those wetlands that provide the lowest level of functions and are often heavily disturbed. Category IV wetlands meet the following criteria:

- (1) Wetlands scoring less than thirty (30) points on the Western Washington Rating System form. (Ord. 2455 § 7, 2006; Ord. 2301 § 3, 2001; Ord. 2108 § 10.2.27 – 10.2.27.3, 1996).

King County Code 21A.24.335 Wetlands — development standards and alterations.

The following development standards apply to development proposals and alterations on sites containing wetlands or their buffers:

- A. Unless allowed as an alteration exception under K.C.C. 21A.24.070, only the alterations identified in K.C.C. 21A.24.045 are allowed in wetlands and wetland buffers;
- B. The applicant shall not introduce any plant or wildlife that is not indigenous to the Puget Sound lowland into any wetland or wetland buffer unless authorized by a state or federal permit or approval;
- C. A category IV wetland less than two-thousand-five-hundred square feet that is not part of a wetland complex may be altered in accordance with an approved mitigation plan by relocating the wetland into a new wetland, with equivalent or greater functions, or into an existing wetland at the ratios specified in K.C.C. 21A.24.340 based on the type of mitigation measures proposed; and
- D. Alterations to category I wetlands containing bogs or fens are limited to K.C.C. 21A.24.045 D.20. and D.52. (Ord. 16267 § 53, 2008; Ord. 15051 § 187, 2004).